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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19. (Cancelled).

20. (New): A sales managing system which accepts an order of articles via network, comprising:

a storing means which stores a number of articles in stock of a retail shop and a number of articles in stock of a wholesale house wholesaling the articles to the retail shop,

calculation means which calculates a virtual stock number, which is a total number obtained by totaling the number of the articles in stock of the retail shop and a number of the articles corresponding to a ratio allocated to the retail shop among the articles in stock of the wholesale house,

reception means which receives an order request including information for specifying the articles and a number of the articles ordered,

determination means which generates, when the order request is received, order result information corresponding to the number of the articles specified by the order request and the virtual stock number of the articles, and

transmission means which transmits the order result information to an originator of the order request.

21. (New): A sales managing system which accepts an order of articles via network, comprising:

a storing means which stores a number of articles in stock of a retail shop and a number of articles in stock of a wholesale house wholesaling the articles to the retail shop,

calculation means which calculates a virtual stock number, which is a total number obtained by totaling the number of the retail shop stock articles and a number of the

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articles corresponding to a ratio allocated to the retail shop among the articles in the wholesale stock,

reception means which receives an order request including information for specifying the articles and a number of the articles ordered,

comparison and determination means which compares, when the order request is received, the order number of the articles specified by the order request with the virtual stock number of the articles, and generates order result information indicating that the order is accepted if the virtual stock number is equal to or larger than the order number, and

transmission means which transmits the order result information to an originator of the order request.

22. (New): A sales managing system according to claim 21, wherein:

the comparison and determination means compares the order number of the articles specified by the order request with the virtual stock number of the articles,

if the virtual stock number is smaller than the order number, then it compares the order number of the articles specified by the order request with a total stock number of the articles obtained by totaling the number of articles in stock of the retail shop and the number of the articles in stock of the wholesale house,

if the total stock number of the articles is equal to or larger than the order number, generates order result information indicating that the number of the articles in stock is available up to the virtual stock number, whereas the number of the articles for the rest of the order number is possibly out of stock.

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23. (New): A sales managing system according to claim 21,
wherein;

the comparison and determination means compares the order
number of the articles specified by the order request with the
virtual stock number of the articles,

if the virtual stock number is smaller than the order
number, it then compares the order number of the articles
specified by the order request with a total stock number of
the articles which is obtained by totaling the number of the
articles in stock of the retail shop and the number of the
articles in stock of the wholesale house,

if the total stock number of the articles is equal to or
larger than the order number, it generates order result
information indicating a possibility that the number of the
articles exceeding the virtual stock number is out of stock.

24. (New): A sales managing system according to claim 22,
wherein:

the comparison and determination means compares the order
number of the articles specified by the order request with a
total stock number of the articles obtained by totaling the
number of the articles in stock of the retail shop and the
number of the articles in stock of the wholesale house,

if the total stock number is smaller than the order
number, generates order result information indicating that,
the number of the articles in stock is available up to the
virtual stock number, and the number of the articles exceeding
the virtual stock number up to the total stock number is
possibly out of stock, and the number of the articles for the
rest of the order number is out of stock.

25. (New): A sales managing system according to claim 22,
wherein:

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the comparison and determination means compares the order number of the articles specified by the order request with a total stock number of the articles obtained by totaling the number of the articles in stock of the retail shop and the number of the articles in stock of the wholesale house,

if the total stock number is smaller than the order number, it generates order result information indicating that the number of the articles exceeding the virtual stock number up to the total stock number is possibly out of stock, and the number of the articles for the rest of the order number is out of stock.

26. (New): A sales managing system, which accepts an order of articles via a network, comprising:

a storing means which stores a number of articles in stock of a retail shop (hereafter a number of the retail stock) and a number of articles in stock of a wholesale house wholesaling the articles to the retail shop (hereafter a number of wholesale stock),

reception means which receives an order request including information for specifying articles and an order number,

comparison and determination means which compares, when the order request is received, the order number of the articles specified by the order request with the number of the retail stock, and

generates, if the number of the retail stock is equal to or larger than the order number, order result information indicating that the order is accepted,

if the number of the retail stock is smaller than the order number, compares a remainder order number obtained by subtracting the number of the retail stock from the order number with the number of wholesale stock if the number of wholesale stock is equal to or larger than the remainder order

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number, it indicates that the number of the articles in stock of the wholesale stock is available up to a order number corresponding to a ratio allocated to the retail shop, and the number of the articles for the rest of the remainder order number is possibly out of stock,

if the wholesale stock number is smaller than the remainder order number, it indicates it indicates that the number of the articles in stock of the wholesale stock is available up to a number of articles to be allocated corresponding to a ratio allocated to the retail shop, the number of the articles up to the number of the wholesale stock is possibly out of order and the number of the articles for the rest of the remainder order is out of stock, and

a transmission means which transmits the order result information to an originator of the order request.

27. (New): A sales managing system which accepts an order of articles via network, comprising:

a storing means which stores a number of articles in stock of a retail shop (hereafter a number of the retail stock) and a number of articles in stock of a wholesale house wholesaling the articles to the retail shop (hereafter a number of wholesale stock),

reception means which receives an order request including information for specifying articles and an order number,

comparison and determination means which compares, when the order request is received, the order number of the articles specified by the order request with the number of the retail stock, and

generates, if the number of the retail stock is equal to or larger than the order number, order result information indicating that the order is accepted,

if the number of the retail stock is smaller than the

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order number, compares a remainder order number obtained by subtracting the number of the retail stock from the order number with the number of wholesale stock,

if the number of wholesale stock is equal to or larger than the remainder order number, it indicates that the number of the articles exceeding a number of the articles in stock of the wholesale to be allocated corresponding to the ratio allocated to the retail shop wholesale is possibly out of stock,

if the wholesale stock number is smaller than the remainder order number, it indicates that the number of the articles exceeding the number of articles corresponding to the ratio allocated to the retail shop and up to the wholesale stock number is possibly out of stock, and the number of the articles for the rest of the remainder order is out of stock, and

a transmission means which transmits the order result information to an originator of the order request.

28. (New): A sales managing system according to any one of claims 21-27, wherein the order result information generated by the comparison and determination means is displayed in a terminal device of the order originator.

29. (New): A sales management method for accepting an order of articles via network, comprising the steps of:

storing a number of articles in stock of a retail shop and the number of articles in stock of a wholesale house wholesaling the articles to the retail shop in a storage device,

storing a ratio indicating a number of articles to be allocated to the retail shop among the articles in stock of the wholesale house in a storage device,

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calculating by referring to the storage device, a virtual stock number which is a total number obtained by totaling the number of the articles in stock of the retail shop and the number of the articles of the wholesale house corresponding to the ratio,

receiving an order request including information for specifying the articles and a order number of the articles transmitted from a terminal device of an originator of the order,

generating, upon receipt of the order request, order result information corresponding to the order number of the articles specified by the order request and the virtual stock number of the articles, and

transmitting the order result information to the terminal device of the request originator.

30.. (New): A sales management method for accepting an order of articles via network, comprising the steps of:

storing a number of articles in stock of a retail shop and the number of articles in stock of a wholesale house wholesaling the articles to the retail shop in a storage device,

storing a ratio indicating a number of articles to be allocated to the retail shop among the articles in stock of the wholesale house in a storage device,

calculating by referring to the storage device, a virtual stock number which is a total number obtained by totaling the number of the articles in stock of the retail shop and the number of the articles of the wholesale house corresponding to the ratio,

receiving an order request including information for specifying the articles and a order number of the articles

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transmitted from a terminal device of an originator of the order,

comparing, upon receipt of the order request the order number of the articles specified by the order request with the virtual stock number,

if the virtual stock number is equal to or larger than the order number, generating order result information indicating that the order is accepted, and

transmitting the order result information to a terminal device of request originator.

31. (New): A sales management method according to claim 30, further comprising steps of:

if the virtual stock number is smaller than the order number as a result of comparison thereof, comparing the order number of the articles specified by order request with a total number of the articles in stock obtained by totaling the number of the articles in stock of the retail shop and the number of the articles in stock of the wholesale house, and

if the total number of the articles in stock is equal to or larger than the order number, generating order result information indicating that the number of the articles in stock is available up to the virtual stock number, and the number of the articles for the rest of the order number is possibly out of stock.

32. (New): A sales management method according to claim 30, further comprising steps of:

if the virtual stock number is smaller than the order number, as a result of the comparison of the order number of the articles specified by the order request with the virtual stock, comparing the order number of the articles specified by order request with a total number of the articles in stock

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obtained by totaling the number of the articles in stock of the retail shop and the number of the articles in stock of the wholesale house, and

if the total stock number of the articles is equal to or larger than the order number, generating order result information indicating a possibility that the number of the articles exceeding the virtual stock number is out of stock.

33. (New): A sales management method according to claim 31 further comprising steps of:

comparing the order number of the articles specified by the order request with a total stock number of the articles obtained by totaling the number of the articles in stock of the retail shop and the number of the articles in stock of the wholesale house,

if the total stock number is smaller than the order number, generating order result information indicating that, the number of the articles in stock are available up to the virtual stock number, and the number of the articles exceeding the virtual stock number up to the total stock number is possibly out of stock, and the number of the articles for the rest of the order number is out of stock.

34. (New): A sales management method according to claim 31, further comprising steps of:

comparing the order number of the articles specified by the order request with a total stock number of the articles obtained by totaling the number of the articles in stock of the retail shop and the number of the articles in stock of the wholesale house,

if the total stock number is smaller than the order number, generating order result information indicating that the number of the articles exceeding the virtual stock number

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up to the total stock number is possibly out of stock, and the number of the articles for the rest of the order number is out of stock.

35. (New): A sales managing method for accepting an order of articles via network, comprising steps of:

storing a number of articles in stock of a retail shop (hereafter a number of the retail stock) and a number of articles in stock of a wholesale house wholesaling the articles to the retail shop (hereafter a number of wholesale stock),

receiving an order request including information for specifying articles and an order number,

comparing when the order request is received, the order number of the articles specified by the order request with the number of the retail stock, and

generating, if the number of the retail stock is equal to or larger than the order number, order result information indicating that the order is accepted,

if the number of the retail stock is smaller than the order number, comparing a remainder order number obtained by subtracting the number of the retail stock from the order number with the number of wholesale stock,

if the number of wholesale stock is equal to or larger than the remainder order number, indicating that the number of the articles in stock of the wholesale stock is available up to a order number corresponding to a ratio allocated to the retail shop, and the number of the articles for the rest of the remainder order number are possibly out of stock,

if the wholesale stock number is smaller than the remainder order number, indicating that the number of the articles in stock of the wholesale stock is available up to a number of articles to be allocated corresponding to a ratio

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allocated to the retail shop, the number of the articles up to the number of the wholesale stock is possibly out of order and the number of the articles for the rest of the remainder order is out of stock, and

transmitting the order result information to an originator of the order request.

36. (New): A sales managing method for accepting an order of articles via network, comprising steps of:

storing a number of articles in stock of a retail shop (hereafter a number of the retail stock) and a number of articles in stock of a wholesale house wholesaling the articles to the retail shop (hereafter a number of wholesale stock),

receiving an order request including information for specifying articles and an order number,

comparing when the order request is received, the order number of the articles specified by the order request with the number of the retail stock, and

generating if the number of the retail stock is equal to or larger than the order number, order result information indicating that the order is accepted,

if the number of the retail stock is smaller than the order number, comparing a remainder order number obtained by subtracting the number of the retail stock from the order number with the number of wholesale stock,

if the number of wholesale stock is equal to or larger than the remainder order number, indicating that the number of the articles exceeding a number of the articles in stock of the wholesale to be allocated corresponding to the ratio allocated to the retail shop wholesale is possibly out of stock,

if the wholesale stock number is smaller than the

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remainder order number, indicating that the number of the articles exceeding the number of articles corresponding to the ratio allocated to the retail shop and up to the wholesale stock number is possibly out of stock, and the number of the articles for the rest of the remainder order is out of stock, and

transmitting the order result information to an originator of the order request.

37. (New): A sales managing method as claimed in any one of claims 30-36,

wherein the order result information generated in the comparing and generating step is displayed in a terminal device of the order request originator.

38. (New): A computer readable recording medium storing therein a program for making a computer to function as a sales management device which accepts an order for articles via a network;

the program executing steps of:


storing a number of articles in stock of a retail shop and the number of articles in stock of a wholesale house wholesaling the articles to the retail shop in a storage device,

storing a ratio indicating a number of the articles to be allocated to the retail shop, among the articles in stock of the wholesale house in a storage device,

calculating, by referring to the storage device, a virtual stock number which is a total number obtained by totaling the number of the articles in stock of the retail shop with a number of the articles corresponding to the ratio among the articles in stock of the wholesale house,

receiving an order request including information for

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specifying the articles transmitted from the terminal device
of an order originator and the number of the articles ordered,
generating step which generates, upon receipt of the
order request, order result information corresponding to the
order number of the articles specified by the order request
and the virtual stock number of the articles, and
transmitting the order result information to the terminal
device of the request originator.
